

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 14, 17, 20 and 26-32 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Hurtado et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0105718, hereinafter "Hurtado").

The undersigned appreciatively acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Agwumezie by holding a personal interview with the undersigned on December 6, 2006. During the interview, an overview of the claimed invention was presented and proposed amendments were discussed that Examiner Agwumezie indicated would "likely overcome" the applied reference. No agreement was reached during the interview pending a formal submission of a response to the outstanding Official Action. The substance of the interview is reflected in the amended claims and arguments, as discussed below.

In response to the rejection based on Hurtado, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 10, 20 and 26 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to an information service method. The method includes the step of recording identification information unique to a non-recordable data recording medium to the data recording medium. The identification information and management information corresponding to the data recording medium are then correlatively stored at a management server. The identification information is read from the data recording medium when data is reproduced from the data recording medium, and the identification

information read from the data recording medium is transmitted to a communication network. The management server receives the transmitted identification information and reads the management information correlated with the received identification information. The management information is then provided and content data is reproduced on the data recording medium in accordance with the provided management information.

Specifically, amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part, an information service method, comprising the steps of:

- ...correlatively storing the identification information and management information corresponding to the data recording medium at a management server...
- receiving at the management server the transmitted identification information and reading the management information correlated with the identification information;
- providing the management information read at the management information reading step; and
- reproducing the content data on the data recording medium in accordance with the provided management information.

Independent Claims 10, 20, and 26, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite substantially similar features. Thus, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 10, 20 and 26.

As discussed during the interview, the claimed configuration allows for management information (e.g., licensing information) to be stored in a management server and correlated with identification information corresponding to a data recording medium. When a user attempts to reproduce data from the recording medium, identification information is transmitted to the management server where it is associated with management information. This management information is then provided to the content reproducing device, which reproduces content in accordance with the received management information.¹

¹ See, e.g., specification, Fig. 9.

Turning now to the applied reference, Hurtado describes a method for delivering encrypted digital content to an end user system displaying the content. Specifically, Hurtado describes that metadata, which was previously associated with content, is read and a user selects, from the metadata, associated content to decrypt and establishes a secure connection with an authorization authority to download data used to decrypt the content.² Thus, Hurtado describes selecting a portion of data in a computer readable medium based on the metadata associated therewith and downloading a decryption mechanism to decrypt the selected content.

However, Hurtado fails to teach or suggest correlatively storing identification information unique to a *non-recordable data recording medium* and management information *corresponding to the data recording medium* at a management server; receiving at the management server identification information transmitted after reading a disk and reading the management information correlated with the identification information; providing the management information reading step; and *reproducing the content data on the data recording medium in accordance with the provided management information*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In contrast, as noted above, Hurtado describes that a user selects metadata associated with content and receives decryption information used to decrypt a specific portion of data associated with the metadata. Once the decrypting key is retrieved in Hurtado's device, the user is capable of reproducing and copying the content without restriction. Thus, the data is not reproduced *in accordance with the management information*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Instead, in Hurtado, the data is decrypted using the retrieved data and the reproduction of the data is not controlled based on the received data (i.e., decryption key).

² Hurtado, Abstract.

One advantage of the claimed invention, as further emphasized by the dependent claims, is the ability for the management data to include parameters in the management information restricting the number of times the user is able to reproduce the data. Hurtado's system is not capable of such an operation, as the data retrieved in his system is used only to decrypt data and not to control the reproduction of the data.

Further, amended independent Claim 1 recites that the recording information and management information is *unique to a non-recordable data recording medium*. In contrast, Hurtado describes that his system is intended to be utilized for metadata associated with content which may be downloaded and stored. The system is not specific to storing identification information *unique to a non-recordable recording medium* and performing the various steps recited in amended independent Claim 1.

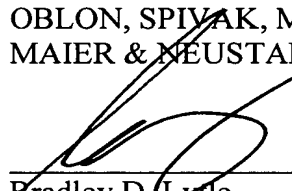
Accordingly, as discussed above, and during the interview, Hurtado differs significantly from the features recited in independent Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 10, 20 and 26 (and the claims that depend therefrom) patentably define over Hurtado.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-32 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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